



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Director of Community Affairs

At its meeting held November 12, 2003, the Board took the following action:

56-A

Supervisor Antonovich made the following statement:

"The County of Los Angeles has 36 cable television franchises with approximately 111,000 cable subscribers in the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. The Department of Consumer Affairs is responsible for the administration of the County's cable television franchising. The County receives from cable operators 5% of their gross revenues [Section 622 (b) of the Cable Act of 1984, 47 U.S.C. §542 (b)] for their use of the County rights-of-way, which is equivalent to approximately 3 million dollars annually.

"In addition to Federal law, the County has ordinance authority applicable to cable television system franchises, County Code, Title 16, Division 4. These sections of the County Code were written in the late 1980's. Since then, there have been many changes in law, technology and compensation, which make it necessary to amend these sections to bring Title 16, Division 4 of the County Code current.

"Additionally, the large majority of the County's cable franchises are subject to renegotiation of their terms because they will be expiring soon. It will be imperative to have changes to the County Code in place prior to the renegotiation of the expiring cable franchises.

"Federal law has preempted local franchising authorities such as the County, from asking for many things in exchange for a cable franchise. However, some terms such as public, educational, and government support, upgrades to cable systems and customer service standards can be addressed on a local level.

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"These tasks illustrate the need for obtaining the best possible professional support to ensure that County Code amendments and renegotiated cable franchises offer maximum benefit to the County. Further, expert legal counsel will be necessary to assist in negotiating and drafting the cable franchise renewals."

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Antonovich, seconded by Supervisor Yaroslavsky, unanimously carried (Supervisor Molina being absent), the Director of Consumer Affairs was instructed to:

1. Work with County Counsel to retain expert legal counsel in the area of cable franchise law to determine whether there is a need to identify additional funding to accomplish legal objectives which ensure that County Code amendments and renegotiated cable franchises offer maximum benefit to the County, and to assist in negotiating and drafting the cable franchise renewals;
2. Report back to the Board within 45 days with findings and recommendations; and
3. Maximize revenue opportunities as the County's cable television franchises are renegotiated.

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Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor  
Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel